2975 Laurel Street #20
San Diego, California 92104
May 5, 1988

Dear Marilyn,

There isn't time to get a decent letter off to you right now. I'm leaving tomorrow for a 3-day road trip to Sacramento for the March on Sacramento for Lesbian & Gay Rights. I'll return late Sunday, May 8th, have one day in town and leave Tuesday, May 10th for the drive to Baltimore. My mother (who lives in Baltimore) is having her 80th birthday celebration on Sunday, May 15th, and we're having a partial family reunion. So I must be there for that.

I'm making the trip by car because I want to spend some time (a couple of weeks) with Mom after her birthday. And being in Baltimore without a car is torture. I can't afford to rent one. Not only that,I have an '87 Nissan Maxima--all power, air conditioned, etc. and I deserve a nice road trip that I've been putting off for a year. So that's the reason that I'm in such a rush today--a bozillion last minute things to do before departure.

Your letter was wonderful. It was great to hear from you. Thanks so much for taking the time out of such a busy schedule. Thanks also for the pictures. What beautiful children! Marisa sure looks like Alvino, and Mirella is <u>your</u> spitting image.

Your concern for my health is very nice and I thank you for that. I'm doing quite well. In fact most people can't believe I'm sick. I've put back all my lost weight, plus 10 more pounds, and my energy level has improved greatly. I'm taking very good care of myself, I've eliminated the daily stress of having to go to work, and though I'm busier than ever, I'm doing work that is very gratifying and fulfilling.

I also feel very loved and cared for —in other words, I have a very good support system. All the things that we all ought to be doing for ourselves and others, terminal diagnosis or not. Learning to die is strangely parallel to learning to live.

I have recently been very involved with the AIDS Memorial Quilt (The NAMES Project) which is currently on a 20-city national tour. I was a member for the San Diego host committee that produced the event here in San Diego on April 12 & 13. It was eight weeks of hard work that really made me put the rest of my life on hold during that time. But as usual, the rewards were fantastic. I was deeply honored by being among the first 5 persons in San Diego asked to be a reader of NAMES at the unfolding ceremony. And I was the only gay person among the first five.

I was further honored in March by being named as the recipient of the Harvey Milk Memorial Award at the annual Nicky Community Service Award ceremony. That award is given to one gay man and one lesbian each year and is considered the gay community's highest award. There were about 1200 people at the ceremony, including representatives of city and county government, and they gave me a thunderous standing ovation. They reached out and touched and hugged me as I moved through the crowded room toward the stage to receive my plaque. What a night!

And, if that wasn't enough for one year, the Parade and Festival Committee (who put on the annual Lesbian/Gay Pride events each year in June) have named me "Mr. Gay Inspiration 1988". I will ride in a special marked car in the parade with "Ms. Gay Inspiration 1988".

I would be honored to have you share my letter with Tom. I always liked Tom and wish we had had a chance to get to know each other better. Please send him my best.

Yes, the Archives takes all the time I can give. I've got to get on with some heavy-duty fund raising as soon as I get back from Baltimore. See the enclosed brochure—composed and laid out (except for the graphic on the front) by yours truly.

In response to your question about little Bobby Eggold, I've enclosed a clipping (being an archivist) from the San Diego Union of December 1986. I haven't heard much since then other than he was practicing in Arizona--maybe Phoenix.

I love you idea of visiting San Diego this summer. I do hope you can arrange it. I don't know about the beach, as I don't handle the sun very well these days. But it would be great to see you.

About ranunculus: Plant fresh tubers in November or early December with a little (tablespoonful) bone meal mixed into the soil just below each tuber. The soil must have good drainage. Not too much water before the leaves start to peep through the soil. Then they can handle lots of water if the space is well drained. They like bright full sun but not a lot of heat so make sure they are in the ground soon enough to mature before the weather gets hot. A once-a-week treatment with a plant food like Miracle-Gro never hurts.

Once again, thanks for your wonderful letter. It meant a great deal to hear from you.

Love all around,

Jess